

Pending nominations, Nos. 232 and 233, were read.

The Librarian was directed to furnish to Amherst College as perfect a copy of the Proceedings of this Society as can be obtained from the unbound numbers.

Stated Meeting, February 1.

Present, fourteen members.

JUDGE KANE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Royal Academy of History at Madrid, dated Madrid, 4th August, 1849:—

From the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, dated Boston and Cambridge, Mass.. 29th January, 1850; announcing the transmission of donations to this Society:—

From Wm. H. Prescott, dated Boston, 22d January, 1850, presenting to the Society, by the request, and in the name of, Don Lucas Alaman, of Mexico, three volumes, by the last named gentleman, on the History of Mexico: and—

From the Society of Antiquaries at London, dated Somerset House, 22d November, 1849, acknowledging the receipt of Nos. 41 and 42, Vol. V. of the Proceedings of this Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Executive Documents: Second Session of the Thirteenth Congress of the United States, 1848–9. 7 vols. 8vo. Washington.—*From the Department of State.*

Journal of the Senate of the United States: 2d Session of the 30th Congress; and Special Session, commencing March 5, 1849. 1 vol. 8vo.—*From the same.*

Documents printed by order of the Senate of the United States, during the 2d Session of the 30th Congress. 1848–9. 4 vols. 8vo.—*From the same.*

Miscellaneous Documents, printed by order of the Senate of the United States during the 2d Session of the 30th Congress. 1848–9. 2 vols. 8vo.—*From the same.*

- Reports of Committees, printed by order of the Senate of the United States, during the 2d Session of the 30th Congress. 1848-9. 1 vol. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Public Documents, printed by order of the Senate of the United States, during a Special Session, begun and held March 5, 1849. 1 vol. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States: Second Session of 30th Congress. 1848-9. 1 vol. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Reports of Committees of the House of Representatives of the United States: 2d Session of 30th Congress. 1848-9. 2 vols. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Miscellaneous Documents, printed by order of the House of Representatives, during the 2d Session of the 30th Congress. 1848-9. 1 vol. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society: Annual meeting at Antiquarian Hall, Worcester, Mass., Oct. 23, 1849. Cambridge. 8vo.—*From the Society.*
- Reports of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Conduct, Discipline and Management of the Provincial Penitentiary of Canada; with the Documents transmitted by the Commissioners. Published by order of the Legislative Assembly. Montreal. 1849. 4to.—*From the Commissioners.*
- Disertaciones sobre la Historia de la Republica Megicana, desde la epoca de la Conquista que los Españoles hicieron a fines del siglo XV. y principios del XVI. de las Islas y Continente Americano, hasta la Independencia. Por D. Lucas Alaman. Tomos 1 and 2. Megico, 1844. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- Historia de Mejico desde los primeros movimientos que prepararon su Independencia en el Año de 1808, hasta la epoca presente. Por D. Lucas Alaman. Parte Primera. Tomo 1. Mejico, 1849. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Passages from the Diary of Christopher Marshall, kept in Philadelphia and Lancaster during the American Revolution. Edited by William Duane, Mem. Hist. Soc. Penna. Vol. I. 1774 to 1777. Philada. 1839, 1849. 8vo.—*From Prof. J. F. Frazer.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XIX. No. 1. January, 1850. Philada. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*
- Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences: New Series. Vol. IV. Part 1. Cambridge and Boston. 1849. 4to.—*From the Academy.*

The Plough, the Loom and the Anvil : Vol. II. No. 8. Feb. 1850.

Philada. 8vo.—*From the Editor, J. S. Skinner, Esq.*

Memoria Historica—Critica sobre el Gran Disco de Theodosio, encontrado en Almendralejo;—leida a la Real Academia de la Historia, por su anticuario Don Antonio Delgado, en la junta ordinaria de 9 de Setiembre, de 1848. Madrid. 1849. 8vo.—*From the Royal Academy of History, Madrid.*

William Penn and Thomas B. Macaulay : being brief Observations on the Charges made in Mr. Macaulay's History of England, against the Character of William Penn. By W. E. Forster. Revised for the American edition, by the Author. Philada. 1850. 8vo.—*From Dr. Benjamin H. Coates.*

Mr. Trego called the attention of the members of the Society to the very interesting Memoir of Don Antonio Delgado, upon the disc of the Emperor Theodosius, presented this evening, from the Royal Academy of Madrid.

This memoir is in the Spanish language, and contains a very minute and interesting account of a curious relic of antiquity, which, after having lain buried, as the author thinks, for fourteen centuries, has been recently brought to light.

It was found near Almendralejo, a town in the province of Badajoz, situated four leagues south of Merida, and nine leagues from the city of Badajoz, in Spain, not far from the frontier of Portugal. It was discovered by a labourer who was clearing a piece of ground for cultivation, and who, in digging, perceived that the instrument, with which he was working, struck against some metallic body. Being disinterred, it proved to be a disc, or circular plate of silver, having a diameter of thirty-two inches, and weighing five hundred and thirty-three ounces and five-eighths. On one of its sides are represented a Roman emperor and other figures and emblems, in bas relief, with an inscription around the border. Accompanying the memoir is an engraved representation of this side of the disc, and the memoir itself contains an elaborate and learned investigation of the purport of the figures, emblems and inscriptions. Among other important results of his examination, Senor Delgado arrives at the following :

That this disc was constructed by order of the Emperor Theodosius the Great, on the day of the celebration of his *quindecennalia*, the 19th of January, in the year 393 of the Christian era.

That this public act took place, if not on the same day, within a

few days of the ceremony of conferring upon Honorius, the younger son of Theodosius, the title of Augustus, and his consequent elevation to the imperial dignity by his father.

That also at this time Theodosius, with his sons Arcadius and Honorius, were recognized in Lusitania as the only legitimate sovereigns, after the death of Valentinian the younger, and that the authority of Eugenius, the tyrant, was not recognised in this province, as some have believed.

That the disc contains a representation of the act of delivering to the magistrate of a province the book or code of precepts for the discharge of his duty, which had to be certified in the act of the *quindecennialia*, because this had reference to the continuance in office or delegation of the imperial authority, in like manner as the emperors prorogued or conferred anew the power of command in the provinces to their delegates.

That this disc was made at Constantinople, then the seat of empire, and is a *clipeus*, such as the emperors were accustomed to order, to be used at the time their inauguration was proclaimed, bearing their image, and in order that the magistrates might use them in their public acts; elevating these insignia before them, and displaying them while sitting in judgment on their tribunals.

The writer of the memoir considers the discovery of this disc as being important in a historical point of view, inasmuch as it appears to correct and fix the chronology of certain acts, and establishes facts hitherto considered as obscure. At the same time it shows, well preserved and in exact detail, the costume worn by the emperors in these public solemnities, as well as those used by their domestics and attendants, and the form of the imperial images transmitted to the provinces, to be displayed before the magistrates in discharging the duties of their office. It also gives an idea of the condition of the arts in the time of Theodosius, and of the transition of the Greco-Roman style to the Byzantine.

This valuable relic now belongs to the Royal Academy of History, at Madrid; the learned antiquary of the Academy, Don Antonio Delgado, being the author of the memoir.

Mr. Trego announced the death of the Hon. John Reed, a member of this Society, who died at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, the 19th day of January, 1850, in the 64th year of his age.

Mr. Trego stated, that he had recently had occasion to exa-

mine an ancient manuscript volume, the original letter-book of James Steel, Receiver-General under Thomas and Richard Penn, Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, in which he found some interesting information concerning the celebrated "Indian walk," performed in 1737, by which the extent and northern boundary of a former purchase of land from the Indians were determined.

Mr. Trego said that among the several deeds given by the Indians for the purchase of land from them in Pennsylvania, by William Penn and his agents, was one dated July 15, 1682, procured at a treaty held with the Indians by William Markham, Penn's deputy-governor, a short time before the arrival of Penn himself in the colony. This deed sets forth that certain Indian chiefs, for themselves and their people, grant to William Penn the land on the Delaware river, extending from a white oak near the Gray-stones, (the rocks on the bank of the river opposite to the falls at Trenton), up the said river side to a corner marked spruce tree; and thence westward to the creek called Neshamony, and along the said creek to the river Delaware, alias Makerisk-kitton; and so bounded by the said river to the said first-mentioned white oak, &c.

The next purchase of land on the Delaware above this tract, appears to have been by a deed alleged to have borne date August 28, 1686, though the deed itself is not to be found. It is, however, referred to, recognised in, and confirmed by the deed of 1737. The limits of this purchase were defined as follows: "Beginning upon a line formerly laid out from a corner spruce-tree by the river Delaware, (Makerisk-kitton), and from thence running along the ledge or foot of the mountains west-south-west* to a corner white-oak, marked with the letter P. standing by an Indian path that leadeth to an Indian town called Playwickey; and from thence extending westward to Neshamony creek; *from which said line* the said tract or tracts

* Some copies read west-north-west; but this is manifestly an error. A west-north-west course from the spruce-tree would not run "along the ledge or foot of the mountains." The ridges of high lands in that region extend from the river in a west-south-west direction, and would be crossed by a west-north-west line. Nor would this course lead towards the point which is universally admitted by written documents and traditionary accounts, as the place from which the Indian walk commenced. John Watson, of Bucks county, who was acquainted with the local topography of the neighbourhood, in his account of this walk, written in 1815, gives the course west-south-west, as taken from the original deed.

hereby granted, doth extend itself back into the woods *as far as a man can go in one day and an half*; and bounded on the westerly side by the creek called Neshamony, or the most westerly branch thereof, as far as the said branch doth extend; and from thence by a line — (blank in the deed) to the utmost extent of the one day and an half's journey; and from thence — (blank in the deed) to the aforesaid river Delaware; and from thence down the several courses of the said river to the said first mentioned spruce-tree," &c.

The spruce-tree referred to in both of these grants is said to have stood on the river bank, 140 perches above the mouth of Baker's, now known as Knowles' creek, and about 10 miles above the falls at Trenton. The white-oak mentioned as a corner in the line from the spruce-tree to Neshamony, according to traditionary account, was on land now of Moses Hampton, about a mile north-eastward from the Friends' meeting-house at Wrightstown.

After the grant of August, 1686, numerous white settlers established themselves on the lower part of the purchase; the settlements gradually extended northward as far as Durham, in the upper part of Bucks county, where a furnace was erected, and some of the scattering frontier establishments of the white people reached as far as to the Lehigh hills. The country in the forks of the Delaware, between the Lehigh hills and the Blue mountain was then favourite ground with the Indians, and was the chief place of abode for many of them. Becoming uneasy at the near approach of the white settlements they naturally desired to have a limit placed upon these encroachments, and accordingly a treaty was begun at Durham in 1734, which was continued at Pennsbury in May, 1735, and concluded at Philadelphia, Aug. 25, 1737, at which the limits of the tract, as described in the deed alleged to have been made for the purchase in 1686, were confirmed, and at which it was agreed that the walk which was to determine the extent of the territory to the northward should be performed. It seems to have been expected by the Indians that this walk would not extend beyond the Lehigh hills, about 40 miles from the place where it was to begin; nor would it have reached beyond them, if performed after the manner in which some similar measurements are said to have been made in the time of William Penn,—the walkers proceeding leisurely, and sometimes sitting down to eat, drink, and smoke their pipes. But those who succeeded William Penn were not governed by those principles of generosity and justice which ever characterized his intercourse with the aboriginal proprietors of the soil, and which procured for him such

high regard and respect among them. To their veneration and love for him may justly be attributed the peace and harmony which, for so many of the early years of the infant colony of Pennsylvania, subsisted between his people and the Indians.

By the time when it was agreed that the walk of 1737 should be performed, it had become an anxious object with the then proprietaries of the province, to obtain possession of the land in the forks of the Delaware, and even further up the river, so as to include the Minisink land, a desirable tract along the river above the Blue mountain. This could only be attained by extending the walk as far as possible north-westward, and then running a line from its termination, by a *proper* course, to the Delaware. In order to ascertain how far the walk could be made to extend, it appears that an experimental essay, or *trial walk*, was previously made, probably without the knowledge of the Indians. From the several accounts of the "Indian walk," that have been written and published, it does not seem that the writers on this subject have been aware that a trial, or experimental walk, took place previous to the one appointed with the Indians, and at which they attended.

The original letter-book of James Steel, Receiver-General under Thomas Penn, contains some interesting evidence upon this subject. To Timothy Smith, then Sheriff of Bucks county, Steel writes as follows, under date of 26th of 2d month (April), 1735: "The Proprietaries are impatient to know what progress is made in travelling over the land that is to be settled in the ensuing treaty that is to be held with the Indians at Pennsbury on the fifth day of the next month, and therefore I now desire thee, without delay, to send down an account of what has been done in that affair; and if any thing is omitted or neglected which should have been pursued, the same may be yet performed before the intended time of meeting the Indians:—Pray fail not of doing every thing that was proposed to thyself and John Chapman, at Philadelphia, that no disappointment may be the means of a delay in the business of the treaty."

Three days after this, he writes to John Chapman and Timothy Smith: "The Proprietaries are very much concerned that so much time hath been lost before you begun the work recommended so earnestly to you at your leaving Philadelphia, and it being so very short before the meeting at Pennsbury, the fifth of the next month, that they now desire that upon the return of Joseph Doane, he, together with two other persons who can travel well, should be immediately sent on foot on the day and half journey, and two others on horse-

back to carry necessary provision for them and to assist them in their return home. The time is now so far spent that not one moment is to be lost; and as soon as they have travelled the day and half journey, the Proprietaries desire that a messenger may be sent to give them account, without any delay, how far that day and half travelling will reach up the country. Pray use your utmost diligence, and let nothing be wanting to be done on this important occasion, which will give great satisfaction to the Proprietaries, who will generously reward you, and those you employ, for your care and trouble."

The matter was not, however, definitely settled at the meeting with the Indians at Pennsbury; nor was it until the final treaty at Philadelphia in August, 1737, that it was agreed that the land should actually be measured out by the walk. Immediately after this, viz., on the 27th of 6th mo., (August), Steel writes as follows to Timothy Smith: "The treaty which was begun at Durham, and afterwards held at Pennsbury, is now finished at Philadelphia, and the time appointed for walking over the land. It is to be the twelfth day of September next, and for that purpose our Proprietor would request thee to speak to that man of the three which travelled and held out the best when they walked over the land before, to attend that service at the time mentioned, when Solomon Jennings is expected to join, and travel the day and a half with him. Thou art also requested to accompany them, and to provide such provisions for those men as may be needful on the occasion desired:—John Chapman also to go along and with you,—and be sure to choose the best ground and shortest way that can be found. The Indians intend that two or three of their young men shall be present, and see the land fairly walked over."

Though, as has been shown, the 12th of September, 1737, was the day appointed for commencing the walk, it was postponed to the 19th, as we learn by a letter from Steel to Solomon Jennings, one of the men employed on the part of the Proprietary government to perform the walk. In this letter Jennings is informed of the postponement, for the reason that the day first appointed would occur during the term for holding the Supreme Court and Court of Quarter Sessions for Bucks county, which rendered it inconvenient for the Sheriff and some other persons appointed, to attend the walk on that day.

The place agreed upon as the point at which the walk was to commence, was a chestnut-tree standing near the present site of Wrightstown meeting-house, on or near the line from the corner white-oak marked P. to Neshamony creek, mentioned in the deeds above re-

ferred to as the boundary of the original purchase. The precise place at which this line struck the Neshamony does not seem to be clearly known; but is supposed to have been near the "high rocks," below the bridge on the present turnpike-road from Richborough to Pineville. A line from the corner white-oak to this point would pass very near to the meeting-house at Wrightstown, and we may hence suppose the chestnut-tree was selected as being on, or very near that line. This, however, is not "westward" from the white-oak, but south-westward, and if the line did actually reach the Neshamony at the place mentioned, as it appears to have done, it affords another example of great neglect of accuracy in tracing the limits of the early purchases of land in Pennsylvania.

The persons employed on the part of the Proprietaries to perform the walk were Edward Marshall, James Yeates and Solomon Jennings; and these were accompanied during the first day by some of the Indians. Mr. Watson, in his account of the walk (Hazard's Register of Pennsylvania, Vol. VI. p. 209) says that many of the circumstances relating to it were obtained by him from Moses Marshall, a son of one of the men appointed to perform it. At sun-rise they started from the chestnut-tree already mentioned, many persons having assembled there, a number of whom, on horseback, accompanied the walkers, carrying refreshments for them. The men employed are said to have been famous for their ability as fast walkers, and they were to have a compensation of five pounds in money and five hundred acres of land. They walked moderately at first; but soon quickened their march, so that the Indians frequently called to them to *walk* and not to *run*; but these remonstrances producing no effect, most of the Indians left them in anger at such conduct, saying they were cheated. An old Indian said "no sit down to smoke, no shoot squirrel, but lun, lun, lun, all day long." Jennings and two of the Indian walkers gave out before the close of the first day, being unable to keep up with the others; but Marshall, Yeates, and one Indian kept on, and arrived at sun-set on the north side of the Blue mountain. At sun-rise next morning they started again; but when crossing a stream at the foot of the mountain, Yeates became faint, and fell. Marshall turned back and supported him until some of the attendants came up, and then continued the walk by himself. At noon, the hour when the walk was to terminate, he had reached a spur of the Second, or Broad mountain, estimated to be eighty-six miles from the point of starting at the chestnut-tree.

Having thus reached the furthest possible point to the north-west-

ward, it now remained to draw a line from the end of the walk to the river Delaware. The course of this line not being prescribed in the deed of purchase, the agent of the Proprietaries, instead of running by the nearest course to the river, ran north-eastward across the country, so as to strike the Delaware near the mouth of the Lackawaxen, thus extending far up the river, taking in all the Minisink territory, and many thousand acres more than if they had run by the nearest course to the Delaware. In relation to this part of the survey, we find, in Steel's letter-book, the following passage in a letter to Letitia Aubrey, the daughter of William Penn, dated November, 1737: "In September last the old Indian purchase was circumscribed according to the deed produced and proved at Pennsbury when a treaty was held there in thy presence; and the Surveyor General and my nephew, who attended the people that walked over the land, and afterwards continued their journey from the upper point or end of the day and half walk to the river Delaware, *which employed them about four days*, informed me at their return home, that after they crossed the great ridge of mountains they saw very little good or even tolerable land fit for settlements."

It is well known that the Delaware Indians immediately saw and complained of the manner in which these things were done, as a fraud upon them; nor would they relinquish the land until compelled to do so by the deputies of the Six Nations at the treaty of 1742. In a pamphlet written by Charles Thomson, and published at London in 1759, entitled "An Enquiry into the Causes of the Alienation of the Delaware and Shawanese Indians from the British Interest, &c.," the proceedings at this walk are mentioned as one of the causes of the hostile feelings on the part of the Indians, which eventually led to war and bloodshed. This pamphlet contains the statements of Thomas Furniss and Joseph Knowles, who were both present at the walk. Furniss resided at Newtown, and was a near neighbour to Yeates, one of the walkers. He says that when the men started he was a little behind, but was informed they proceeded from a chestnut-tree, near the turning out of the road from Durham road to John Chapman's; that being on horseback, he overtook them before they reached Buckingham, and kept company for some distance beyond the Blue mountain, though not quite to the end of the journey. Some Indians attended, whom he considered as deputies appointed by the Delaware nation, to see the walk honestly performed. One of these repeatedly expressed his dissatisfaction, and during the first day of the walk this Indian said the walk was to have been made up the river. In the

afternoon of that day the Indians left them, having frequently called to Marshall and forbid him to run. At parting they appeared dissatisfied, and said they would go no further, for, as they saw the walkers would pass all the good land, they did not care how far or where we went. Timothy Smith, then sheriff of Bucks, held his watch in his hand for some minutes before we stopped in the evening, and called out to the walkers, telling the minutes behind the time, and bid them pull up, which they did so briskly that immediately upon his saying the time was out, Marshall clasped his arms about a small tree to support himself, saying he was almost gone, and that if he had proceeded a few rods further he must have fallen. Next morning, he says, the Indians were sent to, to know if they would accompany us any farther, but they declined it. Indeed the unfairness practised in the walk, both in regard to the way where, and the manner how, it was performed, and the dissatisfaction of the Indians concerning it, were the common subjects of conversation in our neighbourhood for some considerable time after it was done. Joseph Knowles says, that at the time of the walk he lived with his uncle Timothy Smith, and was present on the occasion to carry provisions, liquors, &c. About sun rise they set out from John Chapman's corner, at Wrightstown, and travelled until about one o'clock of the day, when the Indians began to look sullen, and murmured that the men walked so fast,—calling out several times during the afternoon, “You run, that is not fair,—you was to walk.” The men appointed to walk paid no regard to the Indians; but were urged by Timothy Smith, and the rest of the Proprietor's party, to proceed until the sun was down. We lodged in the woods that night. Next morning, being dull rainy weather, we set out by the watches, and two of the three Indians that walked the day before came and travelled with us about two or three miles, and then left us, being very much dissatisfied, and we proceeded by the watches until noon.

It appears, then, from the written statements of persons who were present at the walk, as well as from various traditionary accounts of the proceedings connected with it, that there was a studied intention, and a preconcerted scheme on the part of the proprietary agents, to extend the walk as far as possible in the most favourable direction; and that a line was drawn from its termination by such a course to the river as should include within the limits of the survey, all the desirable land in the forks of Delaware, and along the river, above the Blue mountain. The extracts from Steel's Letter Book prove that a trial was previously made of the extent to which the walk

might be pushed; and the accounts of the manner in which the final walk was performed show the spirit in which the stipulations of a treaty, made in the days of the just, moderate and conscientious founder of Pennsylvania, were carried out by the agents of his successors.

Mr. Justice called the attention of the Society to several printed papers recently found among the "Franklin Manuscripts," one of which showed the antiquity of the bent-timber felloe for wheels; another contained the announcement of a new metallic alloy called "argiroides;" and the third exhibited the circular mode of barometric record, similar to that used by Mr. Luke Howard.

The original commission of Benjamin Franklin, as colonel of a regiment of militia, also found among the Franklin papers, was laid upon the table by Mr. Trego, for the inspection of members. The document is dated 24th February, 1756.

Pending nominations, Nos. 232 and 233, were read.

Stated Meeting, February 15.

Present, twelve members.

DR. PATTERSON, President, in the Chair.

A letter was read:—

From the Librarian of Amherst College, dated Amherst College, 7th February, 1850, acknowledging the receipt of a series of the "Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society," from the beginning, presented to the College by this Society, and returning thanks for the donation.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Quarterly Journal of the Chemical Society of London. No. VIII.

Jan. 1, 1850. London. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Library of the State of New York: made to the Legislature, Jan. 15, 1850. Albany.

8vo.—*From the Trustees of the New York State Library.*